

April 17, 1975

do it at \$15 million a year. If you take out that sheet of paper that I gave you, you will find that by adding \$15 million every year since 1970, the first year with the \$15 million we were \$4 million short. In '72, with the \$15 million, we were \$12 million short. In '73, with the \$15 million added to the year before . . . every one of these, we were \$2 million short. Again, last year by adding \$15 million we would have been \$8 million short. We have come from 17 percent funding up to 20 1/2 percent. Now I believe, firmly, that we should at least have a 40 percent of it funded. Senator Duis, for the life of me, when you add \$15 million a year and come along and find out that the cost of education for the last four years has gone up the \$15 million, then \$4 million one year, \$12 million the other, \$2 million the other and \$8 million the other, it seems to me like with \$15 million every year we're doing what would be normally called adding money to diminishing return. To get that up to 40 percent we're probably going to have to add \$30 million, because the cost of education, unless it turns around and goes backwards and then if it does it will probably be harder to raise the \$15 million. I would suggest just off the top of my head that we increase this \$15 million up to at least a figure that in 10 years would get us to the 40 percent, looking back over the record. I'm not going to amend anybody's bill. I'm not going to talk on this probably no more than this time. I want you to know that last year the bill that Senator Warner passed, the only two counties that it carried in the State of Nebraska was my county and Scotts Bluff. So I am going to support it. I would like to see you make it a realistic figure so that when you say to come to 40 percent that we ultimately would reach 40 percent. As it is now if things progress as this we become . . . 40 percent is just an unrealistic figure. We'll go off into infinity and never reach it.

PRESIDENT: Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. President, members of the body, I had hoped that you would divulge us a few serious moments of discussion about trying to help the schools in financial situations rather difficult today. I think all of you realize this. We don't need to preach another sermon now. Senator Duis and I are attempting to put before you a modified version of the present bill which is on the books at the present time. This is not a drastic departure from what we normally know as the aid program passed in 1969. What we have done in each of the sections, basically . . . and I'll go through it very quickly. In section 1 we merely changed the reporting dates of financial records for the business of computing state aid. Secondly, in the foundation section, we changed the funding and foundation. Those figures that were there were from 1965. These figures today more adequately reflect the cost of education. Section 3, the equalization section, again we revised those figures and modified them so they reflect today's cost, at least last year's costs. We also changed the qualifying mill levy. I think most of us realize that if we're ever going to reach the proper method of funding of education that it should come equally from property tax, income tax, and sales tax, and possibly other indicators of wealth which we won't get into today. At